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Michelle Barron, Owner of The Book House, Eager to Hear How Health Insurance Reform Can Help Small Businesses Struggling to Afford Coverage

(WASHINGTON) - A small business owner from St. Louis County who has struggled to afford health insurance herself, her family and her employees, will attend President Barack Obama's health care address before Congress this Wednesday, September 9 as the guest of Congressman Russ Carnahan.

Michelle Barron, Webster Groves resident and owner of The Book House in Rock Hill, provided health insurance for her employees for years. But with costs rising out of control, she was forced to drop her employees' coverage. In recent years, Michelle has found it impossible to find an insurance company that will provide her an affordable individual policy because of her high blood pressure and family history of breast cancer.

"If there was ever a question of why we need to act now to fix our broken health insurance system, Michelle Barron is the answer," said Congressman Carnahan. **"Michelle is just one of the millions of Americans who are being denied the opportunity to get the health care they need. That's not just wrong - it's handicapping our economy and making it incredibly difficult for small business owners to compete on a level playing field."**

Under the legislation before the House, Michelle, and every American, would have the option to get stable, affordable health coverage that can't be taken away because of illness or unemployment. Health insurance reform will prevent insurance companies from discriminating against small businesses and people with pre-existing conditions, and will give Americans the peace of mind that they can keep the care they like and never be denied the care they need.

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